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PATENT SPECIFICATION



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536,959

Application Date (in United Kingdom): Dec. 8, 1939.

No. 31797/39.

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Complete Specification Accepted : June 3, 1941.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Screw Connections

I, HAROLD CAMINEZ, of 25—12, 41st Avenue, Long Island City, State of New York, United States of America, a citizen of the United States of America, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention relates to screw connections, and more particularly to high strength screw fastenings of the type disclosed in my British Patent No. 497,309.

In the said Patent Specification I have 15 described a screw connection comprising a female member having a thread groove of approximately Vee shape, a male member having a thread groove of segment shape in cross-section, and an 20 interposed wire coil made of a hard resilient material such as hard drawn bronze, the wire having an outer portion shaped as a truncated Vee with sides converging at an angle equal to that of the 25 thread groove of the female member and an inner portion shaped like the thread groove of the male member. The width of the thread groove in the male member is made slightly wider than that of the 30 segment shaped portion of the wire, the thread groove having a radius up to 6% greater than that of the segment shaped portion of the wire.

The present invention contemplates 35 improvements of the mechanical and thermal properties of a screw connection of the said type by providing such structural and dimensional relations of the interconnecting parts and by suitable 40 control of the physical properties of the materials employed that certain desirable deformations are obtained when a tight fitting screw is assembled into a threaded hole.

45 Another object of the invention is to provide a screw connection which will adequately withstand the strains due to high pressure and temperature, which will allow good thermal contact between 50 the interconnected members, which will permit repeated insertion and removal of the male threaded member without wear of the thread surface in the female

threaded member, which will resist seizing or welding of the mated threaded parts that might prevent the subsequent removal of the male threaded member, and which will adequately resist electro-lytic influences that tend to cause destructive corrosive effects in service.

According to the present invention the diameters of the threads in the male and female members and the diameter of the wire coil are so selected that when the male member is screwed into the female member the male member exerts a pressure on the coil so as to wedge the wire into the thread of the female member, the root diameter of the thread on the male member being greater than the innermost diameter of the coil assembled in thread groove of the female member by an amount equal to 5% to 15% of the thread pitch.

The wire coil may be plated with a metal forming a protective coating against corrosion of the material of the female member.

Where the screw connection is employed for the connection of a spark plug to an engine cylinder of aluminium or magnesium alloy the question of heat transference through the connection is very important and in such cases lands are provided between the convolutions of the threads in the cylinder and on the spark plug body and the inner diameter of the lands of the cylinder thread closely fits the outer diameter of the lands of the spark plug thread.

As the screw connection of a spark plug to an aluminium cylinder of an internal combustion engine constitutes one of the cases where the properties of my improved screw connection are particularly desirable, I shall hereinafter describe my invention with reference thereto. It is to be understood, however, that I do not desire to limit my invention to spark plugs, but that it is applicable without departing from the scope of the appended claims wherever the circumstances and the conditions require or justify the use of a high strength screw fastening.

Further objects and details of my invention will be apparent from the

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description hereinafter and the accompanying drawing showing an embodiment thereof by way of example. In the drawing:

5 Figure 1. is an elevation partly in section of a spark plug fastened to an engine cylinder with the aid of a screw connection according to my invention;

10 Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view on a larger scale of a portion thereof;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the wire coil used in the connection shown in Fig. 1;

15 Figs. 4 and 5 are plan views of the first or entering convolution and of the trailing convolution respectively of the coil shown in Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a section through the tapped hole before assembling the wire coil;

20 Fig. 7 shows the tapped hole with the wire coil assembled in place;

Fig. 8 shows a section through the threaded portion of the male screw member.

Referring now to the drawing, 1 is a 25 spark plug comprising a threaded body 2 which forms the male member of its screw connection according to the invention. The female member thereof is constituted by an engine cylinder 3 provided with a 30 hole 4. A wire coil or insert 5 is screwed into the thread 6 tapped in the wall of the hole 4, and the male member 2 is screwed into the convolutions of the wire coil 5. The cross-section of the thread 6 has the 35 shape of an equilateral triangle and it may be provided with a small truncated apex 7 at the bottom of the thread, as clearly shown in Fig. 2. Succeeding convolutions of thread 6 are spaced from 40 each other by the lands 8. I denote as the pitch diameter P of the thread 6 the diameter of that cylinder 9 about the axis 10 on which the width w of the thread space is equal to the width m of the 45 material between two consecutive convolutions of the thread, the pitch p being the distance between similar points of consecutive convolutions. The thread 11 of the male member 2 has the same pitch 50 as that of the female member; however, it is much shallower than the latter, and its cross-section has preferably the shape of the segment of a circle, the height a of the segment being about 80% of the 55 radius r_1 of the circle. Lands 12 are left between consecutive convolutions of the thread 11 opposite the lands 8 of the female member. The corners 13 and 14 of the lands 12 and 8 respectively, may be 60 rounded off for reasons stated hereinafter.

The wire coil or insert 5 is so shaped as to fit snugly between the thread walls of the female member. Its cross-section constitutes a truncated equilateral 65 triangle 15 on a segment-shaped base 16.

The height of the truncated triangle 15 is smaller than the depth of the thread 6 so that its apex 18 is wider than the apex 7 as clearly shown in Fig. 2, in order to insure a wedge-like bearing of both sides 70 of the wire simultaneously against the side walls of the thread groove of the female member. Furthermore, the radius r_1 of the wire-segment 16 is slightly smaller than the radius r_2 of the segment-shaped thread 11 of the male member. This is done in order to insure that the wire coil will not be gripped in a wedge-like manner in the thread groove of the male member so that it cannot be displaced in the female threaded member by any movement of the male threaded member when the latter is either inserted or removed. A further effect of having radius r_1 of the wire segment 16 slightly 75 smaller than radius r_2 of the segment-shaped thread 11 is that with either tight or loose thread fits the male member will contact the wire coil near the bottom surface and any pressure between the male member and the wire coil will therefore tend to force the latter more firmly into the female thread groove.

In a high strength screw connection of the type described, a definite relationship 80 between the various elements is necessary to obtain the maximum efficiency and to provide the maximum strength as described in my aforementioned patent. The strength of the thread in the female 85 member depends both on the shear strength of the metal at the root 19 of the thread and on the compressive strength of the thread groove sides as determined by the depth c of the thread. 90 Since the unit shear strength of the material used for the female threaded parts is generally about .6 times the compressive strength, the proper balance 95 between the shear strength and the compressive strength of the thread 6 in the female threaded member is obtained by making thread depth c equal to about .6 times the thread pitch p . This results in the radial distance b , between the pitch 100 cylinder 9 and the screw cylinder 20 being about .2 of the pitch p with the 60° thread form employed for the thread 6. Representing the screw diameter of 20 by length 105 D and the pitch diameter of 9 by length P , then P is equal to D plus .4 of p . The above properties are important because a shallower thread would not provide sufficient bearing area in the female threaded member while a deeper thread would 110 make the tapping operation more difficult without correspondingly increasing the shear strength at the base of the thread. 115 The segment-shaped thread groove 11 in the male thread member 2 results in a 120

125 130

thread depth a equal to about .3 of v . This shallow segment-shaped thread groove, when compared with other conventional thread groove forms, greatly increases the strength of the male threaded member, particularly under the action of impact or fatigue forces, but it requires certain particular physical properties in the threaded part with which it contacts, as explained herein-after, to insure that thread seizure does not occur and that the load is distributed to all the contacting thread convolutions when an axial force is exerted on the screw connection. Furthermore, as stated hereinbefore, the thread groove of the male member is made slightly wider than the base of the wire cross-section in order to insure that the wire does not wedge in the male thread groove. It is advisable to select the radius of the male thread groove between 1% and 6% longer than that of the segment base of the wire with an average of about 3%. These differences in radii result in an initial narrow contact area between the wire coil and the male thread groove. With the proper choice of material for the wire coil, this initial narrow contact area spreads out under load to a wider bearing area without creating harmful concentrations of stress in the male thread member.

In my aforementioned patent, I have shown that the coil 5 is initially wound with the free diameter s of the main body of the coil sufficiently greater than the diameter g of the tapped hole 6 so that the spring pressure exerted will adequately hold the coil in the female threaded member after it is assembled into place.

I have found that diameter e of the coil should preferably be the largest free diameter to which the wire will subsequently return when the coil is reduced to a diameter equal to diameter g of the tapped hole, and in order for the wire to exert adequate spring pressure in the tapped hole, diameter e should be from 6% to 14% greater than diameter g . This requires that the material of the coil wire have adequate tensile strength or spring properties.

To facilitate assembly of the coil the entering convolution 23 is made with diameter f slightly smaller than the diameter g of the thread groove 6. The entering convolution is provided with a tang 24 which may be engaged by a suitable tool to insert the coil into the female thread groove. By gripping the coil at the entering end, the friction between the coil and the thread groove causes the remaining convolutions of the coil to be reduced in diameter so that the entire coil can be readily screwed into place. After

insertion, the tang on the entering convolution may be removed by cutting or breaking it off by turning the inserting tool with sufficient force in the reverse direction, since a reverse torque applied to the entering coil of the insert causes the convolutions to expand and to wedge firmly in the female thread groove. However, when this thread connection is used, e.g. as a spark plug insert of an engine cylinder, it is not advisable to break off the entering tang of the coil in this manner, since in this case it is desirable for heat dissipating reasons that the coil be in intimate contact with the female thread groove along its entire length. The entering convolution 23, being somewhat smaller in diameter, exerts no spring pressure against the thread groove. The notch 25 is therefore provided at a point approximately opposite the tang on the entering convolution, and after the wire is assembled in place this entering convolution is broken off at the notch by grasping the tang 24 with a small diameter slotted rod and twisting it back and forth a number of times. This method of removing the entering convolution allows the edges of the break to be embedded in the female thread. The other or trailing end of the coil wire may be tapered at 26. This tapered end will provide a beveled edge that will facilitate assembly of the male member into the coil. It also forms a sharp point that tends to enter into the material of the female member thereby increasing the resistance to any force that might tend to back the coil out of the female thread.

In making the connection, the spark plug hole in the cylinder or the bolt hole in the female member is tapped so as to form the female thread and to bring the lands 8 to accurate measure. In this tapping operation the pitch line 9 of the thread groove 6 is carefully controlled by accurately fixing the pitch diameter P . The wire coil is then assembled in place, as previously described, and the springing action of the wire wedges the coil into the female thread with sufficient force that the coil and the female member are inseparable for all practical purposes against any force that might be applied during inserting or removing the male threaded member.

This wedging action also prevents any undesired movement of the coil relative to the female member when the connection is under normal working forces or 125 vibrating loads.

In the manufacture of the wire coil, the cross-section of the wire is accurately controlled, especially as regards to distance h , the height from the pitch line 9 130

to the base of the wire segment 21. By controlling this dimension of the wire section together with the pitch diameter P of the tapped hole, the minor diameter d of the insert assembled into the tapped hole is controlled and kept uniform.

The type of fit between the spark plug or other male threaded member and the coil is governed by the minor diameter d_1 , 10 of the thread groove convolutions on the main body of the male threaded member, see Fig. 8. The minor diameter d_1 of the entering thread convolution at the male thread member is smaller than diameter d_2 15 of the tapped hole and slightly smaller than diameter d_3 of the remaining thread convolutions in order to facilitate entry of the male member into the threaded hole, particularly when diameter d_3 of 20 the male member is made equal to or slightly larger than diameter d of the insert assembled in the tapped hole. For screw connections where easy assembly and disassembly is required, diameter d_3 25 is generally made equal to or slightly smaller than diameter d . For assemblies where a firm connection is desired which will offer adequate resistance to unscrewing, diameter d_3 is made larger than 30 diameter d so that there is a definite interference fit between the base of the male thread groove and the wire of the coil assembled in the tapped hole.

The wire coil material must have 35 certain definite physical properties to best fulfill its functions. The wire must be capable of being produced to accurate size and shape; it must have a smooth, polished surface; it must have adequate 40 tensile strength or spring characteristics combined with good ductility and cold flowing properties, it must have good bearing, anti-seizing and anti-frictional qualities, particularly with respect to the 45 material of the male threaded member; it should have a co-efficient of expansion approximating that of the female threaded member; and it should not subject the connection to electrolytic phenomena due 50 to differences in the electric potentials of the contacting materials which may set up galvanic currents that have a corrosive or decomposing effect on the materials. I have found that it is generally desirable 55 to control the strength or hardness of the wire to various values depending upon the strength of the material used for the male and female threaded member and also upon the type of screw fit desired. Where 60 a loose or free fitting screw connection is employed, a wire of great hardness and wear resistance is generally desirable. Where a tight fitting screw connection is used, it is generally desirable that the 65 yield point strength of the wire be less

than that of the male screw material so that the wire will deform where it contacts the male screw under heavy pressure. Reducing the yield point strength of the wire and increasing its ductility also decreases the strain in the female threaded member when a tight fitting screw fit is used so that lower strength and more ductile wire should be employed in the softer and weaker boss materials.

The physical properties of the wire are controlled by the chemical composition of the material, by cold working the wire in reducing it to size, and by heat treatment.

I have found that phosphor bronze wire can be cold worked or drawn to have the required properties of adequate strength and hardness combined with ductility, and that this material has very satisfactory anti-frictional and anti-seizing properties with respect to steel or aluminum. The bronze wire also has a co-efficient of expansion approximating that of the aluminum boss material so that it is a very effective material for use with steel screws in light alloy bosses as stated in my aforementioned patent.

However, in the presence of moisture, bronze wire in contact with aluminum sets up electric potentials that cause currents to flow. Such currents corrode the boss material so that when a bronze wire insert is used it is necessary to see that no moisture can enter the screw joint. An application of grease or oil will help to 100 protect the screw connection from the entrance of moisture, but to insure best protection against corrosion, I have found it desirable to plate the bronze wire with cadmium, zinc or chromium. 105 Although the bronze wire insert normally has good anti-seizing characteristics in regard to a steel male screw member, nevertheless in a spark plug screw connection, as shown in Fig. 1, the high heat 110 and pressure to which the joint is exposed tends to cause the male screw to seize to the insert with sufficient force to prevent subsequent removal of the spark plug. The resistance to seizing of the wire to the 115 male screw can be increased by chromium plating the inner surface of the wire coil, this plating forming an adherent coating on the bronze that is particularly effective against seizing to steel.

When my screw connection is used in aluminum, and better protection against corrosion than is obtained with the bronze insert is desired, I have found that austenitic steel, and more particularly a 125 steel containing about 18% chromium and 8% nickel, is a suitable material. This material has a co-efficient of expansion similar to that of the bronze and it can be cold worked to high strength and still 130

maintain adequate ductility. It does not have quite as good anti-frictional qualities as the hard drawn bronze and it is therefore not quite as suitable for tight fitting screw connections where the pressure against the wire is sufficiently great to cause plastic deformation of the wire material. For the usual free fitting screw connections the anti-frictional qualities of this austenitic steel wire is generally adequate and I have found that this quality can be further improved by cadmium or chromium plating the wire.

Other suitable materials for certain applications are nickel, and high nickel alloy wires. These materials have good anti-corrosive properties, particularly in contact with aluminum and magnesium alloys, and also have excellent anti-seizing properties in respect to steel so that they are particularly suitable for spark plug inserts and similar connections.

In certain screw connections, as for instance in the connection of a spark plug to a cylinder of an engine, it is required that heat be conducted from one member to the other. It is well-known that in conventional screw connections, particularly when the spark plug and the cylinder are of dissimilar materials, only a few convolutions of the thread of the one member are in intimate contact with the corresponding convolutions of the thread of the other member due to the different changes in thread pitch that occur in the dissimilar materials at the high operating temperatures. Furthermore, only one flank of each contacting thread convolution is indeed in active contact which further decreases the heat conductivity of the joint. Contrary thereto, the connection in accordance with my present invention offers much better conditions.

The spark plug body, being screwed into the convolutions of the coil E, bears with the bottom of all the thread grooves against the segment-shaped base portion of the entire length of the wire, urging the wire thereby into the triangular thread groove of the cylinder so as to bear wedge-like against both flanks of the groove and thus insuring good thermal contact between the wire coil and the cylinder. In tightening up the spark plug, when the face 27 of the plug contacts the cylinder or gasket 28 an axial force is created along the thread which sets up a high unit pressure at the base of the wire segment and causes sufficient deformation in the wire to create a bearing surface along the side of the segment of sufficient area to support the axial force. Due to the ductility of the wire and the intensity of the contact pressure set up in this manner at the base of the

wire segment, the axial force is supported by all the convolutions of the thread and good thermal conductivity is obtained between the wire and the spark plug even under the varying thermal expansion conditions that occur with changes in temperature. While I have found that this high unit bearing pressure between the spark plug and the insert insures good heat conductivity, heat is also transmitted directly between the male and female members through the lands 8 and 12 that are located between the thread convolutions. It is therefore desirable to maintain the clearance between these lands at a minimum or even to allow them to contact each other.

A screw connection of the type described is useful for every purpose wherever high stresses are to be considered or where a tight fitting thread assembly is employed. It is applicable without regard to the material of the male and female members, but it is most advantageous in cases where in the conventional screw connection the danger arises that the members seize together on the thread surface. Such thread seizure with conventional threads is often experienced when tight fitting threads are screwed together or even with highly stressed fittings. Screw seizure sometimes occurs due to the loads in the threads and the vibrations and heat conditions experienced in service. Thus, the novel connection is particularly valuable if a male member is to be secured to the female member with a tight thread fit since the good bearing qualities and anti-frictional characteristics of the wire thread insert combined with the ductility and plasticity of the insert material under high unit loads allow the tight fitting male member to be screwed into the female member without seizure or abrasion of the thread surface; in consequence thereof uniform tight fits are obtained depending upon the amount that diameter d_1 is greater than diameter d and with my connection the tightness of the thread fit is not noticeably affected by the material of the female thread member. Thus tight fitting male members of iron or steel can be firmly secured to a female member of a soft metal, e.g., aluminum, and also to a female member of iron or steel. My screw connection is of advantage in this respect even with highly loaded free fitting screws where the male and female thread members are made of the same material and therefore have a tendency to weld together under load, and I have therefore found it useful for connecting steel screws to steel bosses, aluminum screws to aluminum bosses, etc.

In a connection of this type, I have found that the size or cross-section of the wire should bear some relation to the diameter of the screw in order that sufficient elastic force be available in the wire coil so that the elastic action of the coil will hold it securely in the female thread groove. Suitable wire proportions are obtained by making the pitch of the thread p from 12% to 24% of the nominal screw diameter d . Furthermore when tight fitting screws are employed, I have found that the diameter d_2 of the male thread member can be made larger than the diameter d of the insert assembled in the tapped hole by an amount equal to 5% to 15% of the thread pitch p , and that when such an enlarged tight fitting male member is screwed into place the material of the thread insert is swaged out to completely fill the groove 11 of the male member and also to fill the spaces between the lands made by rounding the corner 13 and 14 and the space left between the apex 18 of the wire and the bottom 7 of the thread groove. After all these spaces have been filled up the further reduction in section of the wire elongates it so that the entering end of the coil is moved forward slightly during the insertion of the tight fitting male screw member. Due to this plasticity of the wire insert, no permanent deformation takes place of the thread groove of the male or female members so that with my thread connection if it becomes necessary to unscrew the thread connection and to again reassemble it with the same tight fit, this can be accomplished in the same tapped hole with a screw of the same size as that initially employed by removing the original insert and replacing it with one of the same size. This is an important feature where tight fitting screws must be serviced as it avoids the necessity of having special oversized screws to replace those that are removed in overhaul or when servicing.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

1. A tight fitting screw connection as set forth in Patent Specification No. 497,309 characterized in that the diameter of the screw-threads in the male and

female members and the diameter of the wire coil are so selected that when the male member is screwed into the wire coil inserted into the female member the male member exerts a pressure on the coil so as to wedge the wire into the thread of the female member, the root diameter of the thread on the male member being greater than the innermost diameter of the coil assembled in the thread groove of the female member by an amount equal to 5% to 15% of the thread pitch.

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2. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 1 for use in connecting a spark plug to an engine cylinder, particularly of aluminium or magnesium alloy, characterized by the fact that lands are provided between the convolutions of the thread in the cylinder and also between the convolutions of the thread on the spark plug body, and that the inner diameter of the lands of the cylinder thread closely fits the outer diameter of the lands of the spark plug thread.

3. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 2 characterized in that the edges of the lands are rounded off whereby space is created for the wire to deform substantially without wedging in the thread groove of the spark plug body.

4. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the wire coil consists of a hard drawn bronze plated with a metal which forms a protective coating against corrosion of the material of the female member.

5. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the wire coil consists of a hard drawn wire and the inner portion of the coil is plated with chromium.

6. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 1 characterized in that the first or entering convolution of the wire coil is provided with a tang at its end and is notched at a point remote from the said end so as to cause a break at a predetermined point when the tang is removed after the insertion of the coil in the female thread of the connection.

7. A screw connection as claimed in Claim 1, 4, 5 or 6 wherein the trailing end of the wire coil is tapered.

Dated the 7th day of December, 1939.
BARKER, BRETELL & DUNCAN,
Chartered Patent Agents,
75 & 77, Colmore Row, Birmingham, 3.

(This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.)

Fig. 1.

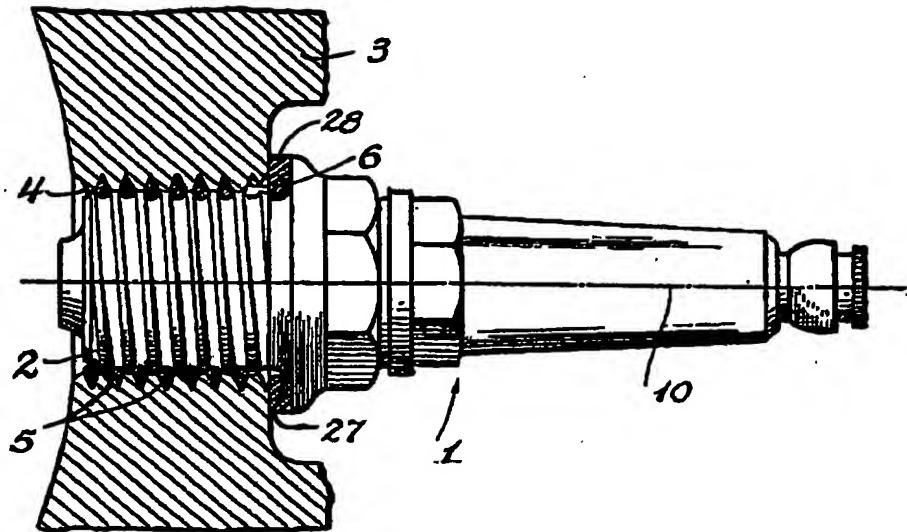
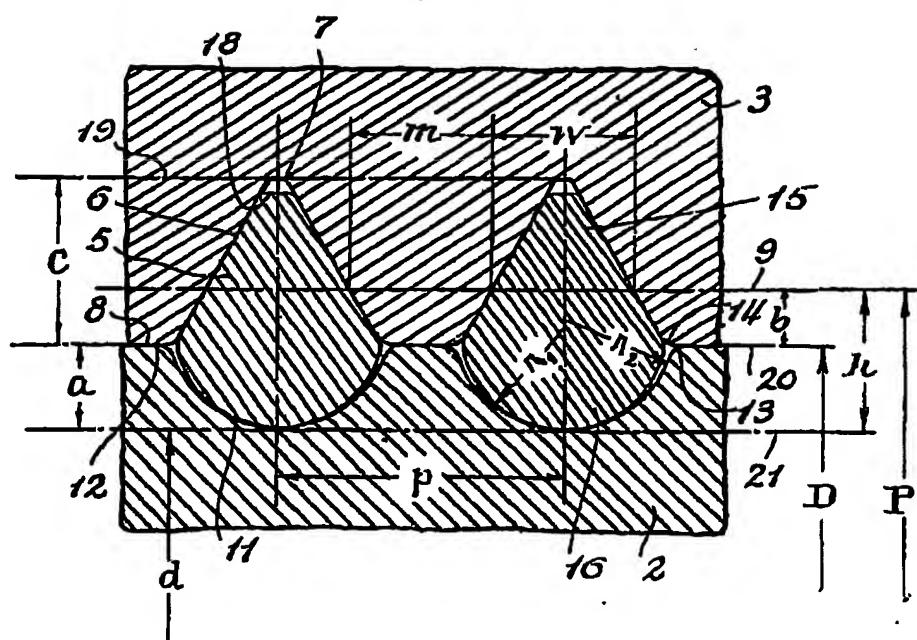
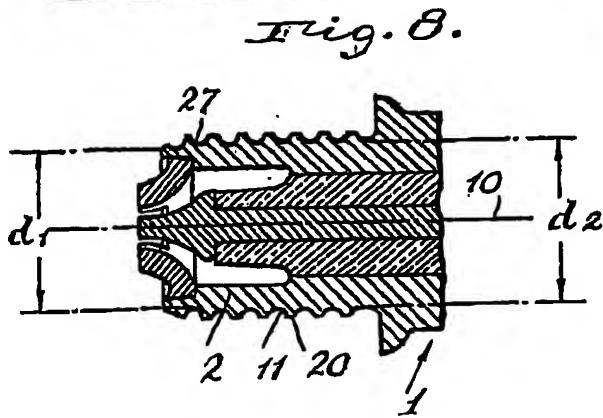
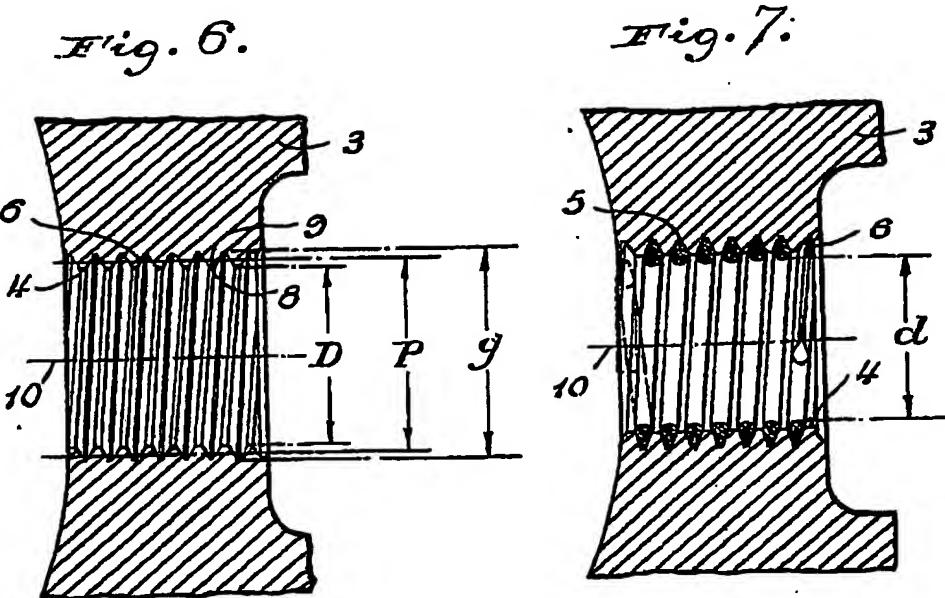
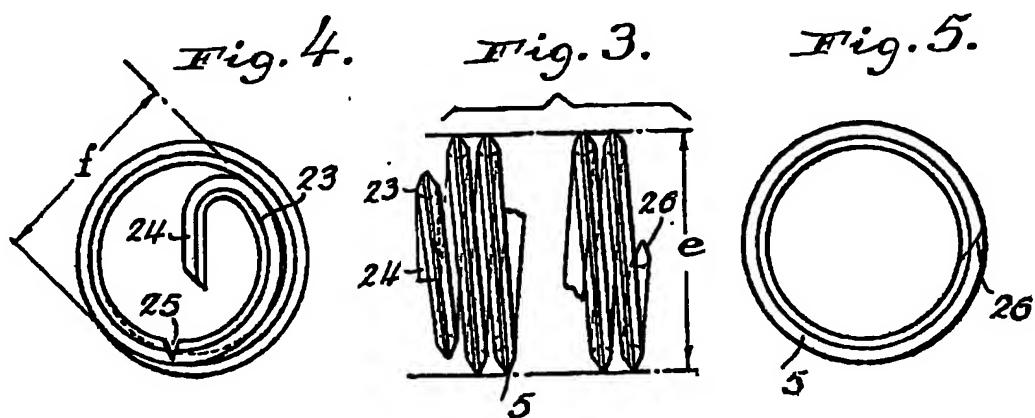
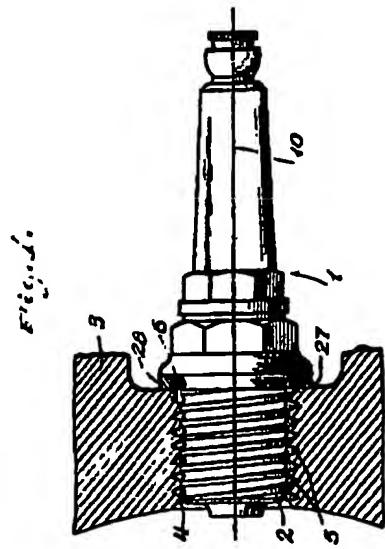


Fig. 2.

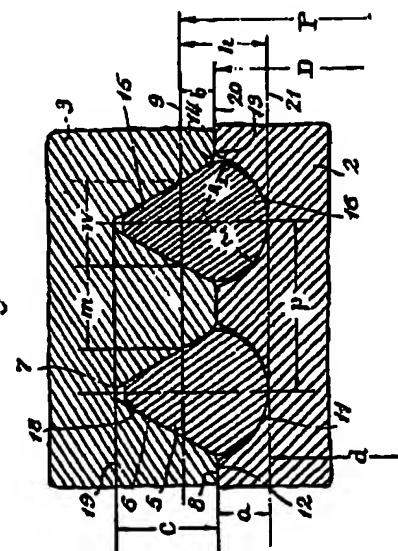




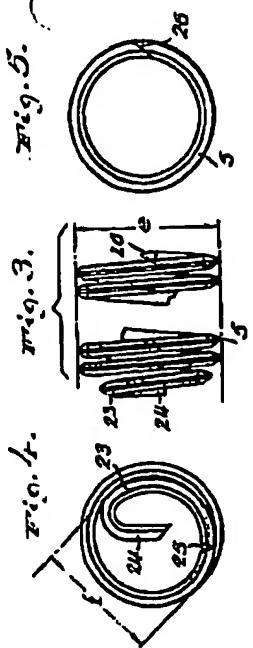
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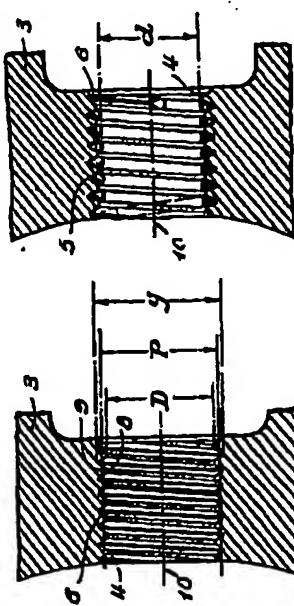
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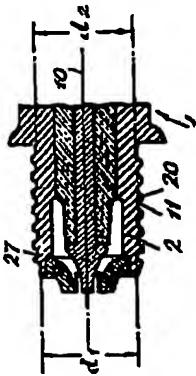
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